

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE

DOCKET NO. 2021-66-A ORDER NO. 2021-69-H

JUNE 2, 2021

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler

DOCKET DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff's Motion to Solicit Comments from Utilities and Other Interested Stakeholders Regarding Measures to Be Taken to Mitigate Impact of Threats to Safe and Reliable Utility Service

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Petition to Intervene of Walmart Inc.

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER'S ACTION:

This matter comes before the Chief Hearing Officer on the Petition to Intervene of Walmart Inc. The Petition is timely filed, and no objections to the intervention have been filed.

After it has been determined that the Petition has been timely filed, the next question for the Commission is to determine whether or not the petitioning party has clear factual support or grounds for the proposed intervention. S.C. Regs. 103-825A(3) requires that a party making a Petition to Intervene in a matter pending before the SC Public Service Commission must:

set forth clearly and concisely:

- (a) The facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be determined;**
- (b) The grounds of the proposed intervention;**
- (c) The position of the petitioner in the proceeding.**

Walmart states that it provides its retail services in the State of South Carolina and that it is a large commercial customer of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. ("DESC"), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC ("DEC"), and Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP") (collectively, "Electric Utilities"). Walmart asserts that it has approximately 97 facilities in South Carolina that are served by the Electric Utilities, which include Walmart Supercenters, Sam's Clubs, gas stations, Neighborhood Markets, and one distribution center. Walmart further states that the steps the Electric Utilities take to ensure they are able to meet customer demands during periods of extreme weather events has a direct impact on Walmart's operations and the customers it serves, and that during extreme weather events, customers depend on being able to obtain basic necessities from Walmart.

As such, Walmart asserts that it has a direct and substantial interest in the outcome of this proceeding.

From these facts, this Hearing Officer holds that Walmart has successfully satisfied the three criteria for intervention stated in the Regulation. Walmart's interest in this matter can clearly be discerned, as can the grounds for the intervention, and the Company's position.

Further, the Petition to Intervene was timely filed and there are no objections to the intervention. Accordingly, the Petition to Intervene of Walmart Inc. is hereby granted in this Docket. This ends the Chief Hearing Officer's Directive.